



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Elliot Krieger, Communications – (401) 222-8471
Embargo until: Tuesday, August 25th, 2009 – 11 a.m.

2009 SAT Scores Remain 5th in New England 17 High Schools Have No Participation in AP Exams

SAT scores for Rhode Island public-school students remained 5th in New England in 2009, and Rhode Island has the lowest participation rate in New England, at 54 percent, according to results that the College Board released today (Aug. 25th).

Rhode Island public-school students in the Class of 2009 scored 486 in critical reading, 487 in math, and 482 in writing on the SAT tests. Those scores represent 3-point improvements in reading and writing and no change in math, compared with last year. The 10-year trend shows a drop of 13 points in reading and 9 points in math.

“I find these low SAT scores unacceptable because I know that our students are capable of achieving at the highest levels,” said Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. “We must set aggressive goals on performance and participation rates for all students, and then we must achieve these goals.”

The SAT results show significant gaps in Rhode Island among student groups. Black students scored about 80 points below the state average and Hispanic students scored about 90 points below the state average on all three tests.

“We must immediately tackle the inequities contributing to our achievement gaps,” Gist said. “I am developing a strategic agenda to increase student achievement, which will include specific goals so that the public can hold us accountable for results.”

The College Board also released the AP results for tests that students took during the 2008-09 school year. Though AP participation (2,617 test-takers) increased by 5.1 percent, the number of participants varied widely by high school, from 226 in Barrington High School to no test-takers at 17 of the 54 high schools, including Mount Pleasant, Feinstein, and the Hope complex in Providence.

“Every Rhode Island student must have access to and an opportunity to be successful in AP courses,” Gist said. “It is unacceptable for any high-school student to not have options for AP or other courses that lead to college credits. For that reason, I applaud the Providence Schools, which this year will offer AP courses across the entire district.”

The SAT reports by school and district will be posted today on the RIDE Web site:

http://www.ride.ri.gov/Assessment/PSAT_SAT.aspx

-30-

Telephone 401-222-4600 **Fax** 401-222-6178 **TTY** 800-745-5555 **Voice** 800-745-6575

The Board of Regents does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, sex,
sexual orientation, race, religion, national origin, or disability